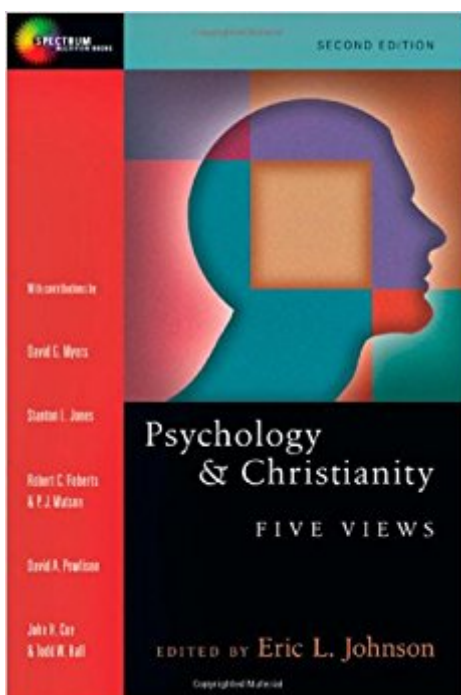


The book was found

Psychology & Christianity: Five Views (Spectrum)



Synopsis

How are Christians to understand and undertake the discipline of psychology? This question has been of keen interest (and sometimes concern) to Christians because of the importance we place on a correct understanding of human nature. Psychology can sometimes seem disconnected from, if not antithetical to, Christian perspectives on life. How are we to understand our Christian beliefs about persons in relation to secular psychological beliefs? This revised edition of a widely appreciated text now presents five models for understanding the relationship between psychology and Christianity. All the essays and responses have been reworked and updated with some new contributors including the addition of a new perspective, the transformative view from John Coe and Todd Hall (Biola University). Also found here is David Powlison (Westminster Theological Seminary) who offers the biblical counseling model. The levels-of-explanation model is advanced by David G. Myers (Hope College), while Stanton L. Jones (Wheaton College) offers an entirely new chapter presenting the integration model. The Christian psychology model is put forth by Robert C. Roberts (Baylor University) now joined by Paul J. Watson (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga). Each of the contributors responds to the other essayists, noting points of agreement as well as problems they see. Eric L. Johnson provides a revised introduction that describes the history of Christians and psychology, as well as a conclusion that considers what might unite the five views and how a reader might evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of each view. *Psychology and Christianity: Five Views* has become a standard introductory textbook for students and professors of Christian psychology. This revision promises to keep it so.

Book Information

Series: Spectrum

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: IVP Academic; 02 edition (August 7, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0830828486

ISBN-13: 978-0830828487

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #18,627 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Counseling #11 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious

Studies > Counseling #18 in *Books & Bibles* > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Counseling & Recovery

Customer Reviews

Eric L. Johnson (PhD, Michigan State University) trained as an academic psychologist and is Lawrence and Charlotte Hoover Professor of Pastoral Care at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He is the author of *Foundations for Soul Care* and the coeditor of *God Under Fire and Christianity and Psychology: Four Views*. An associate editor of the *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, he is the director of the Society for Christian Psychology and the Institute for Christian Psychology. Myers is professor of psychology at Hope College. He is best known for his widely adopted texts on introductory psychology and social psychology. He had published widely in professional journals and is the recipient of the Gordon Allport Prize for research studies of group influence. His latest book is *The Pursuit of Happiness: Who Is Happy and Why* (William Morrow). Stanton L. Jones is provost and professor of psychology at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. During his tenure as chair of the psychology department (1984-1996), he led the development of Wheaton's Doctor of Psychology program in clinical psychology. He received his B.S. in psychology from Texas A & M University in 1976, and his M.A. (1978) and Ph.D. (1981) degrees in clinical psychology from Arizona State University. He is a member of the American Psychological Association and served on the Council of Representatives, the central governing body of the APA, representing the Psychology of Religion division from 1999 to 2001. In 1994 he was named a Research Fellow of the Evangelical Scholars Program of the Pew Foundation. He was a Visiting Scholar at the Divinity School of the University of Cambridge and a Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, for the 1995-1996 academic year. Jones authored the lead article, "Religion and Psychology," for the *Encyclopedia of Psychology*, jointly published in 2000 by the American Psychological Association and Oxford University Press. His article in the March 1994 *American Psychologist*, titled "A Constructive Relationship for Religion with the Science and Profession of Psychology: Perhaps the Best Model Yet," was a call for greater respect for and cooperation with religion by secular psychologists. Jones has also written, with his wife, Brenna, a five-book series on sex education in the Christian family called *God's Design for Sex*. He is also the coauthor of *Modern Psychotherapies* (with Richard E. Butman) and *Homosexuality: The Use of Scientific Research in the Church's Moral Debate* (with Mark A. Yarhouse) and editor of *Psychology and Christianity: Four Views*. He has published many other professional and popular articles and chapters. Roberts, Ph.D., is distinguished professor of ethics at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

He was formerly professor of philosophy and psychological studies at Wheaton College, where he worked on integration aspects of clinical psychology. Author of numerous books and articles, he is currently completing a volume on the moral psychology of emotions.

P. J. Watson (Ph.D. University of Texas at Arlington) is professor of psychology and head of the psychology department at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He has written numerous articles relating to psychology and physiology that have been published in psychology books and scholarly journals. Over the years Watson has been the recipient of several grants for research, the most current being a grant from the University of Chattanooga Foundation to support "personality research in Iran."

John H. Coe (PhD, University of California, Irvine) is director of the Institute for Spiritual Formation at Biola University in La Mirada, California. He is also professor of spiritual theology and philosophy at the Talbot School of Theology and Rosemead School of Psychology. He is the coauthor of *Wildlife in the Kingdom Come* and *Psychology in the Spirit*, and contributor to *Reading the Christian Spiritual Classics* and *Psychology & Christianity*. His research and speaking is in spiritual formation and the interface between psychology, spirituality and philosophy. He was the founding editor of the *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* and has contributed articles to the *Journal of Psychology and Theology* and the *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*. He is married to Greta and they have two daughters.

Todd W. Hall (Ph.D., Biola University, Doctoral specialization, University of California--Los Angeles) is director of the Institute for Research on Psychology and Spirituality, associate professor of psychology, and editor of the *Journal of Psychology and Theology* at Biola University. He is also the president of Alidade Research (alidaderesearch.com), a research and organizational development consulting firm. Hall developed the *Furnishing the Soul Inventory*, one of the most widely used measures of Christian spirituality among Christian colleges, Bible institutes and secondary schools in North America. He speaks and consults regularly on spiritual transformation, leadership and organizational development to Christian schools, nonprofits, businesses and churches around the country. Having conducted research on spiritual transformation for over fifteen years, Hall has published extensively on the topic in journals such as the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, *Journal of Psychology and Christianity* and *Mental Health, Culture and Religion*. He is also the author of *Spiritual Formation, Counseling and Psychotherapy* (Nova Science, 2004).

Powlison, Ph.D., edits the *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, teaches at Westminster Theological Seminary, and counsels at the Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation. He has written numerous articles about Christian counseling, and about how Christian faith and practice relate to the faiths and practices of the modern psychologies.

This book helps us understand the tension between Christianity and psychology. It is well written and researched. The five authors give a clear picture of their differences by countering each other's arguments. It is a must read for Christians on either side of the debate, especially for those who are not aware of middle ground views. For many, the debate is between rejecting or accepting psychology. For others, it is about finding a new pathway between the two. This book points out that there are good options. These options may be helpful for those looking to reconcile psychology with the Christian faith. The views here are proposed by psychologists who deeply love God and care for humanity. They all seem to have a strong desire to help broken people. It is worth reading, and may even help you reconsider a new perspective, a more balanced view, or a new position. I highly recommend it!

I use this as a text book in an introductory class in a counseling program at a Christian University. Exploring the tensions between faith and science, theology and psychology, is a crucial and ongoing question that every Christian counselor has to address. This book provides valuable perspectives to inform the discuss. Of particular value is the format. Proponents of the 5 View each present their case...then they all critique each other. I learn about as much about each view from watching how they critique the others as I do from reading about the view itself!

The book provides a nice overview for those who aren't afraid of combining their faith with science. It presents five different ways that people do this (although you are not limited to these). Each view has its strengths and weaknesses and the book points these out in a nice way. Worth looking into if you're curious and/or want some guidance on how to be a Christian Psychologist/Counselor.

This is a good resource to help the Christian pastor, counselor, or layperson frame the different integration arguments. This us a complex subject but Five Views and Eric Johnson do a good job of presenting each position. Unfortunately, the material includes mention of Exodus International, the failed gay conversion therapy ministry. Even still, this is a good resource for understanding integration views.

good book, raises lots of questions.

Got the book for class. I really like it soFar!

Very helpful to pair this up with Counseling and Christianity.

Great book.

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